

nearly 4 billion hours and \$63 billion waiting in congestion.

The only way to reduce this congestion and to create new jobs is for states to build the new roads and transit projects they need—and states cannot do that until the federal government meets its responsibility and commits funding for these projects to the states.

There is an old saying: even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. Right now, it is time to get moving—and to get our transportation system moving—by passing a transportation reauthorization.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. For the seventh time since the expiration of TEA 21 in September 2003, the House will adopt a temporary extension of highway, transit and highway safety programs.

Why can't we get this bill done? The House adopted the legislation on a 417–9 vote. The Senate adopted the legislation on an 89–11 vote. And yet, the President has threatened to veto the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are spending more time in traffic today than they ever have before. They're commuting hours to work, missing their children's soccer games, and losing their precious free time to traffic.

Commuters in my district in San Francisco's Bay Area are suffering in the second worst city in America for gridlock. They're losing a total of over \$2 million in wasted fuel and several hours each week, away from their offices and their families.

At the same time, our infrastructure is in need of repair. Our roads and highways are crumbling and we have limited funds to invest in new transit systems.

Mr. Speaker, the American people get it. They know that we need an infusion of federal funds to begin addressing our critical transportation infrastructure needs. They're tired of paying gas taxes at the pump and receiving nothing in return.

It's time to get this bill done. It's time for the President to put his veto stamp away and listen to the American people.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2566.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we have just voted on a bill with many important elements for our troops, and I wanted to say a few words about our men and women in uniform.

Since taking office, I have had the chance to meet with our troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, and those here at home in my State of Tennessee, and I cannot describe a more patriotic, dedi-

cated, and courageous group of human beings.

In the face of adversity, tackling this enormous new war on terror, they have put on their game face and they have gotten to work. Their commitment to, as they like to call it, "the mission," inspires me, and it inspires all of us to be sure that we are working here to do everything we can to support their work.

So today, during Military Appreciation Month, I want to extend to our men and women in uniform the world over a great big thank-you from this American and from every other citizen whose freedom in life depends on their strength and conviction. May God bless all of them.

RAISING AWARENESS FOR PULMONARY HYPERTENSION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Pulmonary Hypertension Association for raising awareness and for creating a network of support for patients with pulmonary hypertension. I would especially like to recognize the dedication of my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and his family, but especially the courage of his granddaughter, Charity Sunshine, who suffers from this rare, chronic, debilitating condition, which is characterized by increased pressure in the pulmonary vessels.

It is encouraging to note that significant advances have been made, enabling doctors to provide more effective medical therapies.

So please join me in thanking the Lantos family and the PHA for their unwavering commitment to finding a cure for pulmonary hypertension. My prayers are with all who are affected by this condition.

U.S. TRADE POLICY

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Bush is asking this Congress to pass the Central American Free Trade Agreement, a dysfunctional cousin of the North American Free Trade Agreement, in spite of the fact that our trade policy has failed.

Twelve years ago, the U.S. had a \$38 billion trade deficit. After NAFTA, China and a host of other trade agreements, our trade deficit is now \$618 billion.

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Mr. Speaker, someone defined insanity as if you do the same thing over and over and over again, you expect a different outcome. It is clear our trade policy has failed. The Central American Free Trade Agreement, an exten-

sion of NAFTA, will continue the failed trade policy. We should pass trade agreements that lift up standards around the world, create jobs, both in the developing world and in the United States and change the direction of our trade policy.

ADOPTION OF CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONER HECTOR FERNANDO MASEDA GUTIERREZ

(Mr. MANZULLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today I stand in this great Chamber of democracy to adopt a Cuban political prisoner, Mr. Hector Fernando Maseda Gutierrez.

Mr. Gutierrez was arrested on March 18, 2003 during a regime crackdown on dissidents, sentenced to 20 years in prison for associating himself with the Florida International University, participating in Radio Marti programs, writing articles for foreign magazines and possessing a typewriter, fax machine, and books in his home.

I urge Fidel Castro to release him immediately.

The Cuban authorities are refusing to give Mr. Gutierrez the medicine he needs for a skin ailment and several allergies. He is 62 years old, and therefore his health problems are of great concern to his family.

Faced with crude living conditions and the possibility of merciless consequences to his family, Mr. Gutierrez is determined not to back down from his conviction for a free Cuba.

Let me finish by saying that I am grateful that my distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), promoted this idea of adopting Cuban political prisoners.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

EVERYDAY HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to celebrate individual courage and individual strength. Last Saturday in Carson City, Nevada, an act of bravery and unselfishness occurred when Mr. Loren Boyles saved the life of a Carson City deputy sheriff.

As he was leaving for work early Saturday morning, Mr. Boyles came across Deputy Wayne Gray who was down and being attacked by a suspect he was attempting to restrain.

Without hesitating, Mr. Boyles jumped in and kept that suspect from doing serious, if not fatal, bodily harm to the deputy. He helped to apprehend the assailant and then stayed with Deputy Gray until additional officers arrived at the scene.

Loren Boyles represents the best in the people of Nevada and of America.

He was not afraid to intervene in what was undoubtedly a dangerous situation to save the life of Deputy Gray.

Afterwards, he just went on to work, saying, It was not a big deal; I was just helping out.

But, Mr. Speaker, it was a big deal. Everyday heroes make this country great.

Heroes like Arland D. Williams, Jr., who died in the icy Potomac River helping fellow survivors of Flight 90 get to lifelines. He did not worry about his own safety. Instead, selflessly he helped others.

Heroes like Pat Tillman, who walked away from a \$3.6 million contract as the starting safety for the Arizona Cardinals to defend our country. He too did not want glory, refusing even to grant interviews to talk about his decision.

Mr. Boyles has a long record of selfless bravery as well. A veteran U.S. Air Force military policeman, Boyles risked his life repeatedly during his three tours of duty in Vietnam. And earlier this week, he did not hesitate to risk his life to save someone in need from a dangerous individual.

Yet Boyles has remained modest about the entire incident, telling the local newspaper, the Nevada Appeal: "The cops are the real heroes here. They are on the front lines every day protecting us from guys like this."

Mr. Boyles' bravery is commendable, and his modesty is laudable. His heroism is an inspiration to not only the people of Nevada but to all Americans.

So to Mr. Boyles I say thank you for aiding your fellow citizens, and I commend you for your heroism. May your sense of duty and selflessness be a model for all Americans.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR NATIONAL GUARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, next Monday is Memorial Day. And tonight, in my opinion, a majority in the House of Representatives besmirched that day. A majority, a partisan majority, on a near party-line vote, rejected the idea that our National Guard troops deserve health insurance while they are serving our country. They said, oh, they get it 90 days before they are deployed. Yet many Guard members fail to qualify for deployment because of existing and pre-existing medical problems.

They get it for 180 days after they come back. That should be enough. The chairman of the committee said something extraordinary. He said, oh, they have all got health insurance at their jobs. What jobs? 50 percent of my Guard unit that just came back from Iraq do not have jobs, and they have a very limited health insurance that is going to run out pretty darn soon because of that vote tonight.

Now, they are probably going to go back next year to Afghanistan. But in the interim, we cannot afford health insurance for those young men and women and their families. That is extraordinary to me.

The chairman talked eloquently about 16-year-old helicopters. We need to replace them. What about the 22-year-old Guardsman who does not have a job, just came back from Iraq, whose health insurance is going to expire this summer, who has a wife and a kid and a not really great economy in Oregon and cannot get health insurance through our State because of cutbacks in Medicaid? But we are going to ask him to go back to Afghanistan next year. What is that all about? We cannot afford health insurance for that young family?

We have to buy some new helicopters. Those helicopters are junk without the Guardsmen and the Guardswomen and the regular Army and the Marines, the people who make them work. It does not matter if they are 1 month old, 1 year old, 16 years old. Without those dedicated troops, those helicopters cannot fly.

It is unbelievable to me that the chairman of the committee would force Members of his own party to follow him in this vote.

Fifty percent of my Guardsmen are unemployed. Fifty percent have just returned from Iraq to no job. They do not have insurance. And of the 50 percent that have jobs, despite the chairman's statement, most of those people do not have health insurance either, like so many Americans who work full-time and do not have health insurance.

And we are worried about Guard retention. They are going to have fabulous new bonuses to try and get people to enlist or re-up. How about basics? Basics? Health insurance for those Guardsmen and -women and their families; the same education benefits that people on active duty get.

We are using our Guardmembers indistinguishably from the active duty Army. Indistinguishably. They are performing special operations. They are doing all the same things we ask the regular Army to do. But they do not get the same education benefits. They do not get the same health benefits. They do not get the same retirement benefits, and many times they do not even get the same equipment. They are put in harm's way with inadequate equipment.

It is a disgrace to this House that we were told we cannot afford to add one-quarter of 1 percent. That is about 18 hours' spending out of a year to the military budget in order to provide permanent health insurance for everybody who is still active in a Guard unit in this country. Hopefully, the Senate will act with more wisdom and force a reversal here.

I am proud to have voted with our Guardsmen and -women, and I am proud to have stood up with them and said they deserve better and our country recognizes their service and they recognize it by extending adequate benefits including health care, particularly as we come up to Memorial Day.

So those who voted against it, I hope they are asked on Memorial Day, why did you vote against giving me health insurance? Because there are an awful lot of Guardsmen and -women who would like to know the answer to that question.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

THE LIFE OF ROSE WING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor the life and career of Marietta teacher Rose Lee Wing, who passed away on April 30. She will be deeply missed by a grateful community and scores of former students who were fortunate enough to call her teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to focus your attention not on my words so much, but on this portrait of this beautiful, beautiful person.

Born the youngest of seven children in Kingston, North Carolina, Rose graduated from Meredith College. After completing a master's degree in education at Temple University, she moved to Marietta, Georgia in 1938.

She married Steve Mosher Wing and was blessed with two children: Rose, an attorney, and Steve, Jr., a physician, my friend at the Medical College of Georgia. She was later blessed with